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## **EL PASO ZOO**

Contact: Liz Kern  
915-521-1880 or 204-2248  
January 9, 2006

### **PRESS RELEASE: New Zoo Director scheduled to arrive in El Paso tomorrow.**

New El Paso Zoo Director Steve Marshall is expected to arrive in the Sun City tomorrow. He is making the journey from Atlanta, Georgia where most recently he was the Chief Operating Officer at Zoo Atlanta. *"I am so happy to be returning to Texas, my family and I can't seem to stay away for very long,"* Mr. Marshall says.

Steve Marshall will be able to offer the El Paso Zoo guidance and insight as the El Paso Zoo continues the process of moving into its future as a public private partnership.

Marshall was recruited from Atlanta Georgia, where most recently he was the Chief Operating Officer at Zoo Atlanta. Mr. Marshall was responsible for overseeing major zoo functions including the zoo's animal collection, human resources, education, construction, maintenance and horticulture, guest services and special projects. Prior to Zoo Atlanta, Mr. Marshall served as Executive Director of *The Parks at Chehaw* in Albany, Georgia. Mr. Marshall has experience in working with municipal facilities, not-for-profit organizations and institutions operated under public private partnerships.

Mr. Marshall has been serving as a professional fellow of the *Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)* and has been teaching at the Zoo and Aquarium professional management schools for 16 years. Before joining Chehaw, he held positions of Director of Interpretation at the *Texas State Aquarium* and Curator of Education at the *Birmingham Zoo*. He began his career as a teacher/naturalist at the *Chattanooga Nature Center* in Tennessee. Mr. Marshall received an undergraduate degree in biology at UTChattanooga. He received the master's degree in animal behavior at East Texas State University (now part of the Texas A&M system)

Former Zoo Director Dr. Lea Hutchinson will remain at the El Paso Zoo to help oversee special projects in preparation for accreditation, plus he'll oversee the construction of the African Savannah - part of the Western Expansion to double our zoo in size from 18 acres to 36 acres, and bring lions, zebras and giraffes and other animals to the Borderland.



**Winter Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 9:30am - 4:00pm**  
4001 E. Paisano, El Paso, Texas 79905-4223 (915) 521-1850 Fax (915) 521-1857  
Admission: ages 2 & under (free) ages 3-12 (\$3) ages 13-61 (\$5) 62 & over (\$4)  
Zoological Society Members (free)

# Health District News

## **Interim Director Appointed for City-County Health & Environmental District**

Dr. Robert Galvan was recently appointed to serve as the interim director for the El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District. Galvan, a Fort Worth native, maintains over 35 years of experience in his field and an extensive background in Public Health and Environmental Science.

Galvan's six-month appointment will take effect on January 3, 2007, with the option to extend an additional six-months upon mutual consent. During the initial six-month period, Galvan has been tasked with addressing critical priorities and goals for the District, which includes:

- Review and react to findings/recommendations of the State Health and State Comptroller audits and lay out an implementation strategy and timetable where appropriate
- Immediately get a handle on the district finances and develop recommendations for short-term intervention to balance the budget
- Make the health authority appointment in consultation with Texas Tech and El Paso Medical Society
- Carefully assess all staffing (numbers and qualifications) and make recommendations for immediate and/or short-term adjustments as appropriate
- Animal control is a crisis issue for the community; need immediate intervention to stabilize that operation and defuse the criticism/anxiety about this aspect of the organization
- Assess the governance structure and make recommendations (based on state findings and recommendations) as to the best structure going forward – including board composition if need be
- Facilitate meeting(s) of the City and County elected bodies, along with Board of Health, to develop a turn-around strategy, governance structures, performance and accountability measures and a short-term strategic plan
- Once the governance model is in place – facilitate a strategic plan for the organization for the next 2-3 years
- Address facilities, equipment and IT requirements as part of the six month assessment/turnaround strategy (based on audit feedback) and prioritize for the next 12-36 months
- Assist in the recruitment for a permanent director